

**Size:** 2,254 acres  
**Mission:** Provide communication support  
**HRS Score:** 34.28; placed on NPL in October 1989  
**IAG Status:** Federal Facility Agreement signed in March 1992  
**Contaminants:** Heavy metals, PCBs, pesticides, herbicides, and phenols  
**Media Affected:** Groundwater and soil  
**Funding to Date:** \$3.5 million  
**Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year):** \$0.4 million (FY2005)  
**Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites:** FY1997



*Sabana Seca, Puerto Rico*

## Restoration Background

The Sabana Seca Naval Security Group Activity operates as a high-frequency direction-finding facility, providing communication and related support to Navy and DoD missions in the area. Areas of concern include a former pest control shop, where pesticides and herbicides were disposed of, and a leachate ponding area, which receives leachate from an adjacent municipal landfill. Because the pesticide-contaminated site (Site 6) is adjacent to the installation's picnic, playground, and housing areas, Sabana Seca Naval Security Group Activity was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL).

In FY84, the installation completed Preliminary Assessments (PAs) for seven sites and an Interim Remedial Action (IRA) at Site 5. As recommended, a Site Inspection (SI) was initiated at Sites 6 and 7. In FY88, in an IRA, a 6-inch cover of clean soil was placed over Site 6 and fencing was constructed to prevent exposure to spilled pesticides. In FY89, an SI was completed for Site 7 and the Remedial Investigation (RI) for Site 6 was initiated.

In FY93, the RI for Site 6 was completed and the Feasibility Study (FS) was initiated. The FS for Site 7 was initiated to identify an IRA that could protect installation personnel from exposure to leachate from the municipal landfill. In FY95, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry performed a Public Health Assessment of the installation. For Sites 1 and 3, the initial SI was completed and an Expanded SI (ESI) with Baseline Risk Assessment was initiated. In FY96, the FS, the Proposed Remedial Action Plan (PRAP), and the Record of Decision (ROD) for Site 6 were completed. The ROD indicated installing an asphalt cap at Site 6.

In FY97, the ESI, the PRAP, and the ROD for Sites 1 and 3 were

completed. The ROD at Sites 1 and 3 indicated no further action (NFA). The SI, PRAP, and ROD for Sites 2 and 4 were also completed. The ROD for Sites 2 and 4 indicated NFA. The capping of Site 6 was completed, and the area was converted to a parking lot for the picnic area. The final FS report for Site 7 determined that the source of contamination was an off-base, non-Navy-controlled landfill, and therefore no remediation was necessary. EPA concurred in the NFA designation, and no ROD was needed. Nevertheless, the Navy entered into a partnering agreement with the landfill owners and operators, allowing the Navy to work with the municipality to address the landfill leachate problem. The RODs for Sites 1 through 4 were used in lieu of a Facility Closeout Report and demonstrated that the Navy had completed all construction activities for all sites at the facility and that the facility was ready to be deleted from the NPL.

The installation formed a technical review committee in FY90 and converted it to a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in FY96. A community relations plan was prepared in FY91, and an information repository and administrative record were established in FY94. Bilingual versions of pertinent summary documents and public notices were made available for the public awareness sessions that were held for public input. The RAB was given the opportunity to review and comment on all draft documents.

## FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation was not deleted from the NPL in FY98. The Notice of Intention to Delete (NOID) was completed and the Notice of Deletion (NOD) was signed in FY98, but EPA had to obtain agreement from the state and the public before the NOD could be published. EPA obtained written concurrence from the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board to proceed with the deletion process, published the NOD, and provided a 30-day public comment period before signing

the NOD. The administrative record and information repository were not placed on CD-ROM because the installation wanted to include the NOID, NOD, and public notices, which had not been completed in FY98.

Sabana Seca Naval Security Group Activity will be the second Navy NPL site and the ninth federal NPL site to be deleted from the NPL.

## Plan of Action

- Delete installation from the NPL in FY99
- Place administrative record and information repository on CD-ROM in FY99

## FY99 FUNDING BY PHASE AND RELATIVE RISK

All sites are in the long-term monitoring phase.